

80

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/007,807	TAKEDA, HIDEYUKI
	Examiner Greg Bengzon	Art Unit 2144

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 03/30/2007.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 6, 7, 9, 13, 16, 19, 28, 31 and 33-36.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

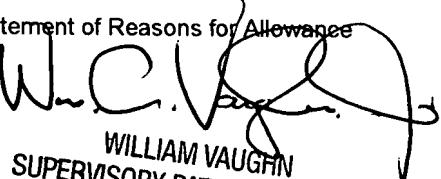
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 1/19/2007
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 5/30/07, 6/8/07
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____


WILLIAM VAUGHN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Examiner's Amendment

5 An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

10 Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Edward Lin on June 8, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

15 1-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A time managing apparatus that manages times clocked by a plurality of timer modules in target apparatuses connected to each other on a network, the time managing apparatus comprising:

a presetting information receiving means for receiving from outside

5 presetting information which is based on an input from a user and contains (a) event start time information that indicates an event start time at which one or more events should be started by each of the target apparatuses, (b) event type information indicating an event type for each of the one or more events, (c) two or more apparatus

identifiers for two or more target apparatuses among the target apparatuses on the
10 network that should execute the one or more events, and (d) a piece of management
information that identifies a timer module selected from the plurality of timer modules in
target apparatuses connected to each other on a network, wherein it is judged, based
on the timer module, whether or not the event start time has been reached;

15 a presetting information transmitting means for transmitting the event start
time information and the event type information received by the presetting information
receiving means, to the two or more target apparatuses identified by the received two or
more apparatus identifiers;

20 a vicarious time managing means for acquiring a standard time from the
timer module identified by the received management information and managing times
vicariously in correspondence with pieces of management information;

25 a standard time acquisition request receiving means for receiving standard
time acquisition requests, which are based on the transmitted event start time
information and the event type information, from the two or more target apparatuses to
which the event start time information and the event type information were transmitted
by the presetting information transmitting means; and

30 a standard time transmitting means for transmitting, to each of the two or
more target apparatuses, a standard time managed by the vicarious time managing
means to cause the target apparatus to judge whether the transmitted standard time
matches the event start time information transmitted by the presetting information
transmitting means, and if the target apparatus judges that the standard time matches

the event start time information, cause the target apparatus to execute an event indicated by the event type information transmitted by the presetting information transmitting means.

7. (Previously Presented) The time managing apparatus of claim 6, wherein the presetting information transmitting means further transmits the management information received by the presetting information receiving means, together with the event start time information and the event type information to the two 5 or more target apparatuses,

the standard time acquisition request receiving means receives the standard time acquisition requests that are attached with the management information, from the two or more target apparatuses, and

the standard time transmitting means transmits standard times identified 10 by the management information attached to the standard time acquisition requests, among standard times managed by the vicarious time managing means, to the two or more target apparatuses.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The time managing apparatus of claim 7 further comprising:

a management information storage means for storing the piece of management information received by the presetting information receiving means, by 5 correlating the piece of management information with at least one of a piece of event type information and at least one of the apparatus identifier, wherein

if the presetting information receiving means receives at least one of a piece of event type information and an apparatus identifier, without receiving management information, the presetting information receiving means searches the 10 management information storage means for a piece of management information that correlates with the received piece of event type information and/or apparatus identifier, and if the presetting information receiving means finds such a piece of management information, the presetting information receiving means allows the found piece of management information to be selected automatically.

10-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A target apparatus for receiving a time from a time managing apparatus and executing an event based on the received time, the time managing apparatus managing times clocked by a plurality of timer modules in target apparatuses connected to each other on a network, the target apparatus comprising:

5 a presetting information receiving means for receiving (a) event start time information that indicates an event start time at which one or more events should be started, (b) management information, and (c) event type information indicating an event type for each of the one or more events, from a time managing apparatus that manages a standard time vicariously for a timer module selected from the plurality of timer
10 modules in target apparatuses connected to each other on a network, that clocks the standard time, by attaching the management information to the standard time, wherein it is judged, based on the timer module, whether or not the event start time has been reached;

a holding means for holding the received event start time information;

15 management information, and event type information;

a time acquisition request transmitting means for transmitting to the time managing apparatus, a time acquisition request with the received management information attached thereto;

a time receiving means for receiving from the time managing apparatus, a standard time identified by the transmitted management information among the standard times managed by the time managing apparatus;

a judging means for judging whether the event start time is reached by comparing the received standard time with the event start time indicated by the event start time information held by the holding means; and

20 25 an executing means for starting to execute an event that is indicated by the event type information held by the holding means when the judging means judges that the event start time is reached by transmitting triggers to two or more target apparatus so that the two or more target apparatus start executing the one or more events simultaneously.

14-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A time managing method for a time managing apparatus that manages times clocked by a plurality of timer modules in target apparatuses connected to each other on a network, the time managing apparatus comprising a recording medium, the time managing method comprising:

5 a presetting information receiving step for receiving from outside presetting information which is based on an input from a user and contains (a) event

start time information that indicates an event start time at which one or more events should be started by each of the target apparatuses, (b) event type information indicating an event type for each of the one or more events, (c) two or more apparatus identifiers for two or more target apparatuses among the target apparatuses on the network that should execute the one or more events, and (d) a piece of management information that identifies a timer module selected from the plurality of timer modules in target apparatuses connected to each other on a network, wherein it is judged, based on the timer module, whether or not the event start time has been reached;

15 a presetting information transmitting step for transmitting the event start time information and the event type information received in the presetting information receiving step, to the two or more target apparatuses identified by the received two or more apparatus identifiers;

20 a standard time acquisition request receiving step for receiving standard time acquisition requests, which are based on the transmitted event start time information and the event type information, from the two or more target apparatuses to which the event start time information and the event type information were transmitted in the presetting information transmitting step; and

25 a standard time transmitting step for transmitting, to each of the two or more target apparatuses, a standard time managed by the vicarious time managing means to cause the target apparatus to judge whether the transmitted standard time matches the event start time information transmitted in the presetting information transmitting step, and if the target apparatus judges that the standard time matches the

event start time information, cause the target apparatus to execute an event indicated
30 by the event type information transmitted in the presetting information transmitting step.

17-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A time managing method for a target apparatus for receiving a time from a time managing apparatus and executing an event based on the received time, the time managing apparatus managing times clocked by a plurality of timer modules in target apparatuses connected to each other on a network, the target
5 apparatus comprising a recording medium, the time managing method comprising:

a presetting information receiving step for receiving (a) event start time information that indicates an event start time at which one or more events should be started, (b) management information, and (c) event type information indicating an event type for each of the one or more events, from a time managing apparatus that manages
10 a standard time vicariously for a timer module selected from the plurality of timer modules in target apparatuses connected to each other on a network, that clocks the standard time, by attaching the management information to the standard time, wherein it is judged, based on the timer module, whether or not the event start time has been reached;

15 a holding step for holding the received event start time information, management information, and event type information;

a time acquisition request transmitting step for transmitting to the time managing apparatus, a time acquisition request with the received management information attached thereto;

20 a time receiving step for receiving from the time managing apparatus, a standard time identified by the transmitted management information among the standard times managed by the time managing apparatus;

25 a judging step for judging whether the event start time is reached by comparing the received standard time with the event start time indicated by the event start time information recorded in the recording medium; and

30 an executing step for starting to execute an event that is indicated by the event type information recorded in the recording medium when the judging step judges that the event start time is reached by transmitting triggers to two or more target apparatus so that the two or more target apparatus start executing the one or more events simultaneously.

20-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising a machine readable medium containing instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

receiving from outside presetting information which is based on an input from a user and contains (a) event start time information that indicates an event start time at which one or more events should be started by each of the apparatuses on the network, (b) event type information indicating an event type for each of the one or more events, (c) two or more apparatus identifiers for two or more target apparatuses among the target apparatuses on the network that should execute the one or more events, and

10 (d) a piece of management information that identifies a timer module selected from the plurality of timer modules in target apparatuses connected to each other on a network,

wherein it is judged, based on the timer module, whether or not the event start time has been reached;

transmitting the event start time information and the event type information
15 received in the presetting information receiving, to the two or more target apparatuses identified by the received two or more apparatus identifiers;

acquiring a standard time from the timer module identified by the received management information and managing times vicariously for each of the plurality of timer modules in correspondence with pieces of management information;

20 receiving standard time acquisition requests, which are based on the transmitted event start time information and the event type information, from the two or more target apparatuses to which the event start time information and the event type information were transmitted in the presetting information transmitting; and

transmitting, to each of the two or more target apparatuses, a standard
25 time managed by the vicarious time managing means to cause the target apparatus to judge whether the transmitted standard time matches the event start time information transmitted in the presetting information transmitting, and if the target apparatus judges that the standard time matches the event start time information, cause the target apparatus to execute an event indicated by the event type information transmitted in the
30 presetting information transmitting.

29-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising a machine readable medium containing instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

receiving (a) event start time information that indicates an event start time
5 at which one or more events should be started, (b) management information, and
(c) event type information indicating an event type for each of the one or more events,
from a time managing apparatus that manages a standard time vicariously for a timer
module selected from the plurality of timer modules in target apparatuses connected to
each other on a network, that clocks the standard time, by attaching the management
10 information to the standard time, wherein it is judged, based on the timer module,
whether or not the event start time has been reached;

holding the received event start time information, management
information, and event type information;

transmitting to the time managing apparatus, a time acquisition request
15 with the received management information attached thereto;

receiving from the time managing apparatus, a standard time identified by
the transmitted management information among the standard times managed by the
time managing apparatus;

judging whether the event start time is reached by comparing the received
20 standard time with the event start time indicated by the event start time information
recorded in the recording medium; and

an executing for starting to execute an event that is indicated by the event
type information recorded in the recording medium when the judging judges that the
event start time is reached by transmitting triggers to two or more target apparatus so
25 that the two or more target apparatus start executing the one or more events
simultaneously.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) The time managing apparatus of claim 6 wherein:

the presetting information receiving means receives a first piece of management information identifies a first timer₁ module and a second piece of management information that identifies a second timer₁ module;

5 the vicarious time managing means acquires a first standard time from the first timer₁ module identified by the first received management information and a second standard time from the second timer₁ module identified by the second received management information;

the time standard time acquisition request receiving means receives a first

10 standard time acquisition request from a first target apparatus, and a second standard time acquisition request from a second target apparatus; and

the standard time transmitting means transmits to the first target apparatus the first standard time, and to the second target apparatus the second standard time.

34. (Previously Presented) The time managing apparatus of claim 6 further comprising:

a management information storage unit for storing the piece of management information received by the presetting information receiving means, by correlating the 5 piece of management information with at least one of a piece of event type information and at least one of the apparatus identifiers.

35. (Previously Presented) The time managing apparatus of claim 34 further comprising:

a vicarious time management storage unit for storing the piece of management information correlated with a source information indicating a location to obtain a 5 standard time.

36. (Currently Amended) A time managing and execution system comprising a time managing apparatus and a plurality of target apparatuses, wherein the time managing apparatus that manages times clocked by a plurality of timer modules in the target apparatuses connected to each other on a network, and the target apparatuses 10 receive a time from the time managing apparatus and execute an event based on the received time,

the time managing apparatus comprising:

a presetting information receiving means for receiving from outside presetting information which is based on an input from a user and contains (a) event start time 15 information that indicates an event start time at which one or more events should be started by each of the target apparatuses, (b) event type information indicating an event type for each of the one or more events, (c) two or more apparatus identifiers for two or more target apparatuses among the target apparatuses on the network that should execute the one or more events, and (d) a piece of management information that 20 identifies a timer module selected from the plurality of timer modules in target apparatuses connected to each other on a network, wherein it is judged, based on the timer module, whether or not the event start time has been reached;

a presetting information transmitting means for transmitting the event start time information, the event type information and the management information received by

25 the presetting information receiving means, to the two or more target apparatuses identified by the received two or more apparatus identifiers;

30 a vicarious time managing means for acquiring a standard time from the timer module identified by the received management information and managing times vicariously for each of the plurality of timer modules in correspondence with pieces of management information;

35 a standard time acquisition request receiving means for receiving standard time acquisition requests attached with the management information, the requests being based on the transmitted event start time information and the event type information, from the two or more target apparatuses to which the event start time information and the event type information were transmitted by the presetting information transmitting means; and

40 a standard time transmitting means for transmitting standard times identified by the management information attached to the standard time acquisition requests, among standard times managed by the vicarious time managing means, to the two or more target apparatuses,

each of the target apparatuses comprising:

45 a presetting information receiving means for receiving (a) event start time information that indicates an event start time at which one or more events should be started, (b) management information, and (c) event type information indicating an event type for each of the one or more events, from a time managing apparatus that manages a standard time vicariously for a timer module selected from the plurality of timer modules in target apparatuses connected to each other on a network, that clocks the

standard time, by attaching the management information to the standard time, wherein it is judged, based on the timer module, whether or not the event start time has been reached;

a holding means for holding the received event start time information, management information and event type information;

a time acquisition request transmitting means for transmitting to the time managing apparatus, a time acquisition request with the received management information attached thereto;

a time receiving means for receiving from the time managing apparatus, a standard time identified by the transmitted management information among the standard times managed by the time managing apparatus;

a judging means for judging whether the event start time is reached by comparing the received standard time with the event start time indicated by the event start time information held by the holding means; and

an executing means for starting to execute an event that is indicated by the event type information held by the holding means when the judging means judges that the event start time is reached by transmitting triggers to two or more target apparatus so that the two or more target apparatus start executing the one or more events simultaneously.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6,7,9,13,16, 19, 28, 31, 33-36 are allowed.

The following is the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The provisions in the Claims reciting -- a time managing apparatus that manages times clocked by a plurality of timer modules in target apparatuses connected to each other on a network, the time managing apparatus comprising:

a presetting information receiving means for receiving from outside presetting information which is based on an input from a user and contains (a) event start time information that indicates an event start time at which one or more events should be started by each of the target apparatuses, (b) event type information indicating an event type for each of the one or more events, (c) two or more apparatus identifiers for two or more target apparatuses among the target apparatuses on the network that should execute the one or more events, and (d) a piece of management information that identifies a timer module selected from the plurality of timer modules in target apparatuses connected to each other on a network, wherein it is judged, based on the timer module, whether or not the event start time has been reached;

a presetting information transmitting means for transmitting the event start time information and the event type information received by the presetting information

receiving means, to the two or more target apparatuses identified by the received two or more apparatus identifiers;

 a vicarious time managing means for acquiring a standard time from the timer module identified by the received management information and managing times vicariously in correspondence with pieces of management information;

 a standard time acquisition request receiving means for receiving standard time acquisition requests, which are based on the transmitted event start time information and the event type information, from the two or more target apparatuses to which the event start time information and the event type information were transmitted by the presetting information transmitting means; and

 a standard time transmitting means for transmitting, to each of the two or more target apparatuses, a standard time managed by the vicarious time managing means to cause the target apparatus to judge whether the transmitted standard time matches the event start time information transmitted by the presetting information transmitting means, and if the target apparatus judges that the standard time matches the event start time information, cause the target apparatus to execute an event indicated by the event type information transmitted by the presetting information transmitting means.

-- wherein aforementioned features are combined into one embodiment, is not fairly taught by the prior art.

The Applicant's claimed embodiments, unlike any of the cited art, disclose that the receiving side of the standard time send the transmitting side a request to acquire the timer clock source, as indicated in Applicant Specifications, Page 47 Lines 15-25, Figure 9, and Page 58 Lines 5-25. Furthermore, the cited art in combination, do not disclose the process of selecting a timer module during the user input of the pre-setting information, as specified in the Applicant Specification Figure 5, Figure 18, Page 39 Lines 15-25.

Akamatsu disclosed a technique such that a plurality of devices can make and manage reservations by a timer in cooperation with each other. It uses a first device which acquires the accurate time from an external source through a master time acquisition means. However Akamatsu did not disclose wherein the setting of the master time source is input when the user inputs a presetting information. In Akamatsu, the master source may be input ahead of time, but for each individual preset information, there is no indication of an option to select the master time source.

Arita disclosed a method by which when there is the change in the distributive transmission contents which have been reserved and registered on a terminal by a user, the reserved contents of interest are automatically updated to the contents after the change, and the reserved contents can be readily grasped by a user. However Arita did not disclose wherein the setting of the master time source is input when the user inputs a presetting information.

Daniels disclosed wherein the video recorder of each user requesting the particular video selection can be controlled to automatically tune in and record the particular video selection. However Daniels did not disclose wherein the setting of the master time source is input when the user inputs a presetting information.

Woods disclosed aligning the definition of the time in the nodes so that each node has essentially the same definition of time. However Woods did not disclose wherein the setting of the master time source is input when the user inputs a presetting information.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Greg Bengzon whose telephone number is (571) 272-3944. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Fri. 8 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Vaughn can be reached on (571)272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

gcb

A handwritten signature consisting of stylized, flowing lines that appear to begin with the letters 'gcb'.